Computer News 80

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

We want to thank all of you who have subscribed to, or ordered sample copies of our Computer News 80. We hope that it will grow into a thirty to forty page magazine. From the response we have been receiving, it looks as if it won't take very long to grow to that size.

But we hope that Computer News 80 will grow slowly, and contain the things that you, our readers, request and that Computer News 80 will be source a for the help you want so you can get the most out of your application programs and your systems.

"Will you carry display advertising" has been the request we have received most often from people who phoned in their subscription orders or who sent in notes and letters with their subscription orders. Their main reason in asking for display advertising was that the display ads in 80 Micro and other magazines was their only source to find TRS-80 products and programs that are still being sold and supported.

As you know from our first issue, we did not plan on carrying any display advertising. However now that so many subscribers and producers of TRS-80 programs and materials have requested display advertising we have decided that it would be a good idea.

It is only natural for advertisers to want to make a buck, and for this reason they would like to have their advertising dollar cover as many potential buyers as possible. This means circulation.

We want to clearly state our position concerning display advertising and that is that "this is a subscriber supported publication".

We do not want to ever be in the position that we have to depend on advertising dollars to keep our newsletter going.

The evils of advertising supported publications should be fairly obvious. But, the one major evil that we want to avoid, is that of having to publish a "nice review" just because the amount of the advertising dollars being spent in the publication.

We want to be totally independent in our reviews. If it is a good product we will say so, if it is a lousy product we will say so.

Most publications try to put on a face that they are independent of the influence of their advertisers. But, if 90% of your paycheck came from advertisers, what would you do? (i.e. 80 Micro and others).

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Once the advertising dollar dries up so does the magazine, and the subscriber is left holding the bag.

We are sure that there are a lot of good, loyal advertisers out their who are more than willing to support their TRS-80 products and who will let us know that they still intend to support the TRS-80 systems and want our business, by spending advertising dollars.

Others have dumped their inventories (sale 50% off, and no support) and will be gone as soon as they can. These advertisers are out of business.

So, we will make every effort to make room somehow to get the word out to our readers of what is still available and from what sources directly through our reviews, news items, or paid advertising.

We also expect that through our open forum, reviews, and our research of products and programs to provide you with the sources that exist for products for the TRS-80 systems, regardless of whether we have paid advertising or not.

You can help too, by letting us know if you have public domain programs that you like or dislike. Please include the source, along with the name and description of the programs application and why you like or dislike the program.

If you have written a favorite program that you would like to share with your fellow users send that in too.

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PROMISES TO KEEP

Our first issue contained a large amount of Sermonizing and I hope a forgivable amount. Which will not be forthcoming in future issues, or at least kept to a minimum.

Our purpose in these first two issues is to make you acquainted with the people, goals, and expectations of Computer News 80.

As the Tandy Texan said to the Buffalo Wyoming cowboy, "Hope yaall will bare with us!"

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

Recently we have seen an effort on the part of two magazines to call for articles, and then two issues later, editorialize on how the people who submitted the articles could not write and put down those who had made an effort to supply material.

I wouldn't blame anyone who sent in an article to one of these magazines if they never sent one again, or blame someone who was planning on submitting an article to them if they just said, forget it.

You don't have to worry about that with us, we don't care if you can't write perfect english, or can't spell. As long as your idea, article, hint, or program, is honest, and clearly explained it will fly here. And, we are here to help, we have automatic spelling checkers (that's what they are for). We like to read articles that are in general, informal english, just the way you might be talking to us or your best friend over the phone.

Sure we have some nit/picks out there, but the overwhelming number of us could care less as long as the information is useful. That's why there are plumbers, carpenters, small shop keepers, contractors, policemen, house wives, electricians, factory workers, farmers, ranchers, nurserymen and others all using personal computers which help them get the work they do best done more easily. And to provide some of the answers to daily and business problems when even they don't know why the computer works the way it does, just as long as the problem gets solved.

Your publisher will be 55 years young this year, and even though he has been in the mainstream of business for the past 40 years, as an electrical contractor, distributor manager, salesman, management consultant, publisher, cost estimate engineer, and market developer. He still doesn't know exactly why everything does what it does, and if he were to have relied on perfectionism in the extreme all those years nothing would have ever gotten done.

Our Associate Publisher is 47, and experienced with a blue pencil, and journalism, and raises orchids for a hobby.

So come on, lets share those experiences, programs and gained expertise with others and please don't consider that your solution to a problem, or your approach to getting a job done is too small and unimportant - it may be just what someone else has been looking for.

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MEDIA FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES
Send your input material in double spaced upper and lower case. You may send 5-1/4 single sided or double sided disks, be sure that you save your file in ASCII format. (We can take SuperSCRIPSIT text or LeScript text at this time and hope to soon be able to read ALLWrite and Scripsit Pro) But, a file saved in ASCII format is the best bet for any article, or program for publication.

Long programs which take up three and four pages will be reviewed and the program will be made available on disk, for a very small fee to cover handling, in most cases that would be only three or so dollars.

We could never enjoy looking at page after page of closely packed program text which didn't tell us anything, except that there were long hours of typing and debugging ahead.

Besides, the way some magazines are photo reducing their program text you would need a seeing-eye-dog just to copy it.

Submitted Program Policy
Programs published in Computer News 80 will be considered for use as Public Domain Material, and our magazine policy shall have no copyright restrictions other than the reproduction of articles, or copying the publication in total or in part, without permission.

Letters to the Editor and Open Forum Policy
We will not publish the name of the individuals who write to us, except when they specifically request it, initials and city will be used for reference. If you have something that will help the reader send it to this publication for publishing. If requested we will pass your name along to to the person asking the question, and if he then feels the need, he can contact you directly. If you have something to sell commercially place an ad in the classified.

Articles submitted
Articles submitted will carry your full name as the author and not your address unless specifically requested to do so.

We had hoped to keep our publication very informal and not have to take up space with the kind of explanations as above, but with some of the stuff we have been receiving (very few, thankfully), we can't help but lay it all out.

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WHERE DID ALL THE MODEL IV's GO
A recent check of several major city newspaper classified ads came up with the fact that the classified ads did not have any Model 4's advertised for sale.

This means that all the Model 4's that Tandy manufactured and sold are still out there and still being used. And in a lot of cases they're right beside the Model I and III's that are still in use today.

Where did all the Model 4's go? Why, somebody out there is still using them!

It may be that the market for software for the Model 4's has been saturated and that this is the reason that most vendors of Mod 4 products have jumped the rail and have decided to jump on the MS-DOS wagon. We just can't believe this, Model I, III, 4/4P, and 4D users are still going to buy products for their equipment.

Let's face it though, the only way to make money in the software publishing and distribution market is to keep writing and selling software. But sooner or later there must come a point when every conceivable system program for a particular model and make of computer has been written, leaving only the special dedicated application programs to be written and sold.

Either way the market is limited for the software publisher. That is why we feel that many suppliers have dropped their TRS-80 software development and support, not because TRS-80 Model owners have stopped using their computers, nor do they intend to stop using TRS-80 computers.

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UNCONFIRMED RUMOR - CONFIRMED

Our unconfirmed rumor that Tandy was going to put the Model 4D on sale at half price has been confirmed, and to a such degree that we just bought one at the $600 price, and may buy another to add to our office. Talk about commitment to a product!

The Model 4D came with Deskmate, TRSDOS 6.2.1, LS-DOS 6.3 , and an introduction package to Compuserv with $15.00 of free time offered. Quite a load of stuff if bought separately as software.

Remember LS-DOS 6.3 disk is a complete system disk, and not a patching disk. You use it just like any other original system disk. This means that you could just put the TRSDOS 6.2.1 system disk that comes with the computer on the shelf and forget it.

We were all wondering if the LS-DOS 6.3 was going to be supplied by Tandy or if we had to buy it separately from LSI if we had bought a TRS-80 computer after Jan. 1, 1988. Now we know.

Surprisingly, there were registration cards for the TRSDOS 6.2.1 and DeskMate, but not for the LS-DOS 6.3.

Does this indicate that there will be no future updates for LS-DOS 6.3?

Or, does this mean that whatever deal was made between TANDY and Logical Systems, they still can't agree on who will support the package?

Tandys reprint of the LS-Dos documentation briefly mentions the "Phantom Protection Scheme" on page 32 of Questions and Answers where the question is asked by someone who is afraid of using it because of the protection scheme, called anti-piracy protection scheme of LS-Dos 6.3.

The answer claims that it does exists, and that it is highly sophisticated, but do not worry. No legitimate user will ever lose data. Pirates or users who violate the license agreement will have trouble with the system, according to the statement.

And how will they have trouble? The answer goes on to say that based upon the problems that are reported by the user, "We will know if, and when, a violation occurs." And again the assurance that under no circumstances will the protection system ever damage data.

Tandy has printed a no liability disclaimer in the front of the manual.

It is a shame that Tandy got themselves in this box with trying to come up with some form of date extension for their new machines, and the policies of the software programer. But for you users out there; use the LS-Dos 6.3 program and don't worry about what statements the publisher has tried to make to squeeze the last nickel out of a market they thought had ended. It is still a good disk operating program and we still recommend it over all others at this point, it has added value even at $39.95.

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SuperSCRIPSIT DEFENDED

In our first issue we published two long articles (Horror stories) on the problems we were having with SuperSCRIPSIT version 1.1 and 1.2.

We did have a lot of problems, and the author of SuperSCRIPTSIT and Tandy are still working to debug version 1.2.

But with all its inbred problems we still like the program and the way it works, for certain applications.

We didn't mean to imply that we would throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Our one particular need is for very long documents that require weekly updating, and much more block moving, deletions, and new text insertions than would the average business letter correspondence, or manuscript for a book.

For very special and perhaps personal reasons, we like SuperSCRIPTSIT and wish that the author and Tandy could remove all the final bugs. We also like LeScript version 1.7 for other reasons, and use it for different applications.

SuperSCRIPTSIT just doesn't seem to hold up to a lot of tampering with on a huge multi-page document, by using a lot of block actions, and deletions after the original text has been entered.

But for a powerful system that reads/writes to disk, rather than being memory based, where you have to chain document files, or have to install a huge memory board in your computer (added expense) that will carry you into and beyond 32K of Ram with a hard disk. SuperSCRIPTSIT is a powerful program for your Model 4, without needing any special adaptation or hardware expense.

It may just be stubborn pride to make something we paid for work like it is supposed to. As we find out all the patches to debug the program we will certainly report them to our readers.

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PERSONAL PET PROGRAMS

Every computer user has his or her "preferred" personal pet programs, which, they use for word processing, data bases, file systems, or graphics, and they are usually unwilling to change, either because of the lack of time to learn a new program, or because their old program fits a particular application, or because it fits their computer system size, or just plain stubborness to make something work that they have bought and paid for.

All application programs have bugs, just some have more than others, or the bug shows up only under very sophisticated usage of the program.

The truth of the matter is that there aren't any programs on the market that will be all things for all people. If you do much computing, you may need a couple word processors, one that works better than the other one on certain types of work. The same holds true for all other packaged computer programs.

We would like to hear from you! What is your favorite program? What do you use it for - word processing - data base - accounting - spreadsheet?

Tell us what you like best about your favorite program, and what you like least.

If you have a basic program that you have created you think will be a boon to all users send it in.

We happen to be particularly weak in computer graphics experience, mainly because of the lack of time, not because we don't find graphics a fascinating subject.

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OUR GOALS REPEATED

Our main goal is to serve the everyday user with tips, hints and solutions to problems that they may be experiencing with their application programs.

There is a raft of new programs, public domain and otherwise out there that are available and it is not our desire to provide our readers with just some more new programs. But to help them apply the programs and equipment that they already have.

But we do have a great interest in patches, new short application enhancement programs and will publish all that seem appropriate to meet the goals we have set forth.

IT IS ALSO OUR GOAL TO KEEP THIS PUBLICATION AS INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE AND USER FRIENDLY AS POSSIBLE.

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VISICALC TO SCRIPSIT

If you want to transfer your Visicalc data to Scripsit or SuperSCRIPSIT, load the data file to the screen if it has been previously written and saved, then from the screen print the data / P F commands in Visicalc, and print to a new file name on a disk, this will create a file with the name you have given it and with the extension of /PRF (check your directory) Use the A option on the Scripsit menu to convert from ASCII to a Scripsit file.

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THE PATCH COMMANDMENT

The patch commandment number one, and only one is never, never apply a patch to your working disk, or original disk.
Always make a backup copy to apply your patches to. Then check the patched program disk out before using on your valuable data.

You could also build and store a DO file, which can be checked very carefully to see that the patch is correctly typed before applying it your program disk.

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FidoNet PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARD LIST

DAK Industries of Canoga Park, California has made available a list of the FidoNet Association's Public Bulletin Boards, giving over 2,000 BB's across the country.

The User's Guide portion is written for IBM compatibles, but it is helpful in explaining the electronic bulletin board terms, and if you are not familiar with a BBs operation, there is a full explanation of the procedures.

They are also giving all of the proceeds over and above the cost from the sale of the list to the American Cancer Society.

The company has set up a special PO Box for this service.

To get a copy: Send your order with checks only (no cash or credit cards) with the word "List" to DAK P.O. Box 3045, Canoga Park, CA 91306

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CHICAGO SYSLINK NETWORK

(312) 622-4442 300/1200 Baud

System Operator: George Matyaszek

Syslink is a network of computer operated bulletin boards with more than 50 locations around the country. The Chicago site is promoting their board as a direct-marketing medium primarily for computer products and services. They have a section for general retailers and a special section which carries ads and an aviation newsletter from a local aviation supplier. Advertisers are charged $20.00 per-user annual subscription fee and orders are place directly to the advertisers thru Syslink's electronic mail system. Other Syslink sites have special interest such as professional scuba diving in Fort Myers Florida, astrology and "New Age Issues" in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Syslink also offers Info-Mat, an on-line electronic mail service.

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NEWS ITEMS

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Mickey Slonaker of Discount Software, Middeltown, New Jersey has a large stock of software, (see classified) which he says consists of new factory sealed and opened packages used for demo, which were purchased from Radio Shack in bulk to increase their own library. He also said that they purchased a number of complete inventories to protect their computer investment and to insure their future requirements.

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Anitek Software Products, PO Box 361136, Melboure, Florida 32936 publishers of LeScript has announced their version 1.80 of LeScript with a Spelling Checker with a 70,000 word dictionary. The spelling checker is a built-in part of the LeScript program. Updates $35 for version 1.7, $50 for version 1.6, $60 for version 1.5, $65 for version 1.4 and $70 for versions 1.1,2 or 3. Add $3 if original disk is not returned. A one year full support contract is $75.00. Plus $2 shipping and handling.

Send them any other word processor program, costing more than $80 for TRSDOS or $120 if an IBM program and they will sell you a LeScript 1.8 with word spelling checker for $64.95 for the TRSDOS version.

They have promised an enhancement to LeScript to include a print driver for laser printers.

LeScript version will not be available to run on TRS-80 Model 2-12-16 or CPM.

There was mention of plans to release the spelling checker as a separate program to be used with older versions of LeScript in place of Electric Webster.

LeScript is a memory based word processing program and documents are restricted to the size of your computers memory, chained document files are used or expanded memory boards are required.

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A VISIT WITH DAVID GOBEN: 1988 DATE PATCHES AND SYSTEMS REVIEW

I'm going to start off with some thoughts about the 1988+ date-stamping patches for TRSDOS 6.2. There were a few mentioned in issue 1.1 of this publication. The first is the patches from Michael Jacobs Consulting. It is quite an involved piece of work, and is in fact a complex series of JCL files that apply the patches. In the final analysis of this product, it does in fact do its job, but with exceptions. If you are one who is willing to convert ALL your TRSDOS disks to this new dating format (for some this would be a monumental task), then this is the route to go. It is cheap ($14.95 registration fee), but is not, in my mind, the best route to follow. The problem with it is that it changes the dating method so dramatically that displaying a directory of an unconverted disk under a converted system disk, will show garbage on the screen. But as I said, if you're willing to convert ALL your disks, then this is it.

The second is the one on the 80 MICRO BBS. Again, it manages to do its job, and with MINIMAL patches, but in my mind it fails. All this one does is do a date OFFSET, so a directory listing of a disk that was created prior to applying the patches will show an incorrect modification date.

Personally, I would not recommend these two patches. BUT, in the event that you truly need date stamping AND are in a financial pinch, then I would prefer that you went with the $14.95 package. It is available from Michael Jacobs Consulting, PO Box 553, Station K, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2G9. Include $3.00 for shipping and handling.

My personal recommendation is to upgrade to LS-DOS 6.3 from LSI. Not only does this update your system without the fuss of patching, but it allows you to use unconverted disks without a problem, as it will recognize the older dating method as well as the new. In addition, some powerful features have been added, as well as some utilities which are no doubt worth far more than the upgrade fee ($39.95). BASIC is enhanced, allowing you to use abbreviated editing commands, selective blocks for renumbering, faster loads and saves, down and up arrow consecutive line listing, DOS SVCes, and search and display variables, line numbers and keywords. LS-DOS 6. is available from Logical Systems Inc., PO Box 55239, Grand Junction, CO, 81505.

Model III LDOS users can upgrade by purchasing LDOS 5.3 from MISOSYS, Inc., PO Box 239, Sterling VA, 22170-0239. The cost is $24.95 with $2 postage and handling for US, $3 Canada, and $6 foreign.

If you look around anymore, you might notice that there aren't many new products out on the market for the TRSDOS world. About the only active I/III/4 distributor is MISOSYS, Inc., which did the major design work on LDOS and TRSDOS/LS-DOS 6. And so it would not be surprising, just as INFOCOM is backing out of producing adventures for the TRSDOS world, that MISOSYS has stepped in. MISOSYS has just released an interactive fiction adventure called LAIR OF THE DRAGON. It is the largest adventure in the genre of interactive fiction to date. If you are new to adventuring, it starts out quite simply, so as not to intimidate you, but deeper into it, it gets quite complex. The reason that I mention it is that it was written by yours truly. You can purchase it through MISOSYS for $29.95, plus the postage rates mentioned above. This III and 4 version comes on a special distribution disk that will boot up on either system and transfer their files to your own disk formats, such as NEWDOS80, LDOS, TRSDOS 1.3, LS-DOS, DOSPLUS, and MULTIDOS. I suppose that it is just another sign of the times, but an MS-DOS version is available as well.

I now want to share my thoughts on the LS-DOS 6.3's so-called 'protection' scheme: I would LOVE for someone to come forward and prove to me that it exists. I have gone through the DOS byte by byte from one end to the other, and have not found any code, encrypted or otherwise, that would perform such a task. The fact is, a backup of such a protected disk, if the data were indeed stored between tracks, would be ignored during a disk backup, and so the copied disk would then be considered an ORIGINAL by such a scheme. If there were, any time that you added or removed a disk drive, added memory, or an internal modem, hi-res board, or anything else, this act would change the environment, and would

thereafter be considered by such a protection scheme as a foreign system. But this has not been the case. But simply because the device may not exist, this does not release you to make several copies for any possible other Model 4 systems you may have, or to be a real scum and give copies away. As stated in the last issue of this publication, by rights you SHOULD purchase one copy of the DOS for EACH machine that you own, for in fact you did so when you first purchased each machine. It was not, as some advertising may have claimed, been supplied FREE (NOTHING is free in the marketplace). Support those who support your machine. After all, the reason that the market has moved away from the TRSDOS world is that the businesses cannot financially justify the support, as the revenue from the TRSDOS field is about bone-dry.

As promised in my last column, I said that I would provide some useful patches to enhance your system. Since it is now 1988, I will focus these on LS-DOS 6.3. These patches will not work as presented on TRSDOS 6.2. If there are enough request for the .6.2 versions, I will provide them, but with hesitation, as I will not try to work around any of the patches that you may apply to 6.2 to update its date-stamping, but will leave that for you.

The first patch allows you to perform a more liberal date entry on boot-up. Normally to enter January 1, 1988 you would have to key in 01/01/88. With this patch you can ignore leading zeros and enter instead 1/1/88. To use the patch, BUILD a file called DATE63/FIX, and enter the following lines:

```
D0F,9F=57 CD AC 21 38
F0F,9F=5F CD 2F 21 30
D0F,A4=02 AF 53 82 37
F0F,A4=04 83 5F 37 7B
D10,46=7E D6 30 FE
F10,46=00 00 0 00
D10,4A=0A D0 23 C9
F10,4A=00 00 00 00
```

Apply this patch using the command line PATCH SYS0/SYS.SYSTEM USING DATE63

The next patch allows continued JCL processing even when the base system drive has changed. Changing the base system drive is when you change logical drive :0 from the current base drive to another physical drive. This is done using the command SYSTEM (SYSTEM=d), where 'd' is the new drive, such as 1, or your harddisk, or even your memdisk drive. A system (at least minimal) must exist on the drive. The problem is that if a JCL file does this system switch, and the JCL file was executing from the base (or destination) drive, that JCL processing will abort, for it will try to continue running from the logical drive it began on, which will no longer be true. I fixed this so that if a system switch occurs, that the JCL file will continue to operate from the proper physical drive, no matter where it is operating from. To apply the patch, BUILD a file called SYSJCL/FIX, and enter the following lines:

```
D05,B4=CD A2 2B
F05,B4=21 74 04
D05,E5=B4 2B
F05,E5=17 24
D08,35=3A C6 00 B7 28 04 91
F08,35=00 00 00 00 00 00 00
D08,3C=20 05 4F 79 32 C6 00
F08,3C=00 00 00 00 00 00 00
D08,43=21 74 04 C9 3E 0C EF
F08,43=00 00 00 00 00 00 00
D08,4A=21 00 00 C3 09 24
F08,4A=00 00 00 00 00 00
```

Apply this patch using the command line PATCH SYS8/SYS.SYSTEM USING SYSJCL

Well, that's it for this time around. In my next column I'll show you how to change SYSTEM drives WITHOUT changing the logical drive numbering as SYSTEM (SYSTEM=) will do. If you have a particular subject that you would like for me to cover, that you feel will be of interest to other readers as well, send them to me in care of this publication, and I will be glad to consider it. If, on the other hand, you have some expertise in that field you may consider submitting it to Computer News 80, and have an article published with YOUR OWN by-line. NEVER be afraid of a POSSIBLE rejection (I have a box FULL of rejection slips that attest to my own perseverance). Happy computing!

—David Goben

(Editors Note: David Goben is a associate editor for 80 Micro, and author of many

articles and programs for other publications. He is also a programming consultant who specializes in troubleshooting programs and writing utilities.)

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READERS LETTERS AND COMMENTS

"Thank you for picking up where 80 Micro left off. I was pleased to receive my first copy in this mornings mail. It was interesting and well worth the investment. Count me in on your first year." -M. S. Middletown, NY

"I enjoyed your first issue. Is PFS:file the same as Profile 4 Plus" - J. C. Easton, MD (PFS:file is not the same as Profile 4 Plus, PFS:file is a filing program, and Profile 4 Plus is a data base program with many more functions and options. - Editor).

"I have retained the Model I because of its little value and one program, I can't use on the Model 4. That is Mactronics M80 Ham Interface used with an interface device that allows the Model I to receive and transmit morse code. Incidentally, if anyone knows how to convert that tape loading program to disk, single sided, soft sector 5-1/4", that can be used with TRSDOS 2.3 or Dosplus, I'd be most appreciative.

I am impressed with your sample copy, so I'm going to give it a whirl." -W. H. Humbolt, TN

"Thank you for sending a sample copy so quickly. Usually I have to wait so long for things like that I forget what I sent for. Your speed in responding is a breath of fresh air!" - S. L. South Haven, MI

"Also own an 'Older Than Dirt' TRS Color Computer, was an 8K model, but had surgery for 32K. Later was souped- up with an external 5-1/4" disk drive, really like this 'Little Guy', it is a fun computer and have 'tons' of special application programs and games. Also have a modem equipped for my Model 4 or Color." -M. B. Nevada City, CA

"I've just finished reading your first issue and it appears to be a very original and helpful news letter. Congratulations on your good start! I hope to read about different application programs in upcoming issues, as well." -R. R. Brooklyn, NY

"I have found the article in the February issue of 80 MICRO telling about your intention to publish a newsletter covering the TRS-80 machines. This is the best thing I have seen in that magazine for the past few issues. I am sure you are aware that there is a great 'silent majority' of us out here that do not partake of all the modem-BBS-online hoopla that seems to be the rage. Lots of us have a machine that we thoroughly enjoy, would like to see something about what could be available to us without having to fight the telephone lines, and write to someone about their product, instead of purchasing it cold turkey.
-M. O. Temple, TX

"I am a 74 year old retiree and do not have the knowledge to design my own programs. I originally purchased a TRS-0 Model III cassette unit. Later having a keyboard problem updated to a mode IV Disk.

Since my original purchase I have subscribed to all TRS publications for the respective units. When they ceased publication I then subscribed to 80 Micro gleaning whatever help that was available. However upon receipt of the February 1988 issue and seeing the changed format along with the deletion of Model III and IV data it has resulted in my cancellation of the subscription.

Seeing the memo regarding your publication on Page 8 of the Feb. 1988 issue it has resulted in my subscribing and hope others will do the same, and that you may have a successful operation. - A. G. Pt.Pleasant, WV

"My entire focus is word processing with SuperSCRIPSIT as I am at the beginning stages of becoming a self-publishing writer. I intend to remain with my primitive technology indefinitely and not allow myself to be overwhelmed by the upgrading bug in the mad rush to the future, although I am avidly interested in everything new that happens in the computer world." - P. D. Waterbury, VT

"February is my last issue of 80 Micro and I'm not going to renew, even though I was a charter subscriber in Jan 1980, (continuous to the present). I may subscribe to PC Resource, since I do have one of the assembled PC XT clones from JDF. The Model 4, however is (and will remain) my main interest. I got started with a Model I in 1979 and presently have a 4P and a 4D, both with Grayfyx Solution." - R. G. Wellington, KS

"We wish you success. Since our retirement we, my wife and I do mailing lists using our Model IV." - B. H. Beaumont, TX

"I'm glad your doing this, will be dropping 80 Micro (after all these years)." -D. M. Greenbrier, TN

"I received my sample copy today and spent the next 45 minutes in reading pleasure. As a Model 4 user, I too was concerned that we had nowhere to turn for tech info or just communicating with other Model 4 users. But your newsletter (also hoping to see you grow to a magazine) has come to save the day. Anxiously awaiting the next issue!
P.S. I would like to see a letters to the editor section. Also if there is anyway you could print my BBS phone number. It is called 'The Kingdom of Nyrand' 300/1200 Baud, 24 hrs, daily, its run on a Model 4, with an external 5 meg. hard drive, using an, also defunct BBS program ERAC56Plus package. Looks like I am just lucky-I guess! The number is 817-551-0649." Randall Bales, Ft. Worth, Texas.

OPEN FORUM

Send your questions and problems to the Open Forum a regular feature of Computer News 80, for the exchange of information for our readers.

We have a very large and qualified technical staff and your questions will be referred to them, sorry no phone calls please. We will however publish your questions and the answers in the open forum and/or reply to your individual questions by direct mail.

When writing please be as specific as you can. We need to know what machine you are using, what DOS you are operating under and the program version number that you are using when experiencing your problems.

Questions that our technical staff can not answer will be published, so that our readers will be able take a crack at it.

We will also advise you as to who the proper manufacturer or software publisher is that could be of help.

==========

Q: Recently we purchased several program packages from software publishers for the Model 4, at reduced prices, when the packages arrived they were stamped "NO SUPPORT", what do we do now?

Granted we bought the programs at lower prices because we did not know if we really wanted them or not. But we had been reading the advertising hype for years, and a close out prices we felt that we could take a look-see, and like all programs that were sold at full price, we couldn't return them, but had to eat the look-see cost.
P. W., Miami, FL

A: Sounds familiar, I am sure that we all purchased some pretty fine programs, and some that were not so fine, and we didn't have the eyesight that was good enough to read the small print in the ads that said "programs sold at these reduced prices, are sold with out support" or some just said "no support".

But when Tandy sold a software package at reduced prices, they did not pull the support to back up the programs, and you could return it within 30 days. Now it seems like most software publishers are dumping their inventories of TRS-80 programs as fast as they can, along with dumping the support too. I don't feel that we owe them much support if we are abandoned to our own devices to support ourselves, I would not hesitate to send a copy of a protected disk to a friend who could give me the support that I needed, when the author/publisher did not supply me with any kind of support after buying his product at any price, first issue price or close out price.

The only thing left for support is our fellow users out there who can share their expert advice and experiences with programs that are new to us.

POWERSOFT of Dallas, Texas, Publishers of Super Utility for Mod I,III & 4, PowerMail+, and several utilities, said when contacted, that all their items for the Model 4 were on sale at half price, with no support. That "Support Not Included" in their ads, really meant that you couldn't phone them for support, but you could write them with your problem and they would take care of it. It seems that they have no full time programmer who could answer questions over the phone because he only comes in one day a week.

Ron Malo, of PROSOFT in North Hollywood, California, publishers of Allwrite and Dotwriter for TRS-80 Model I, III, and 4 said when contacted, that they would support their TRSDOS programs even though they were selling them at half price, just as they always have. But, there would come a time when they would have to refuse or stop sales of the products because the support liability would greatly exceed the profit margin in the sale of a TRS-80 package. He would not predict how long they would continue to sell their products in the TRS-80 format, but said he would not sell anything without offering full support.

(Editors Note: We ordered Allwrite and a Dotwriter for our own use, we will try to have an objective review in our next issue.)

==========

Q: My PFS file will not boot up when I enter the date, it just keeps reverting to asking for the date, and I am on my last back up on the limited backup master disk.
B. S. - Portland, OR

A: PFS:file will not accept a date beyond Dec. 31, 1988, type any date in when you boot up to get into the open PFS:file menu, exit to TRSDOS, menu #7, then with the read-write removed from the master work disk, go to system and type SYSTEM (DATE=NO) which will shut off the date request, and then you can boot the disk as normal. None of your files will be dated though from that time on. (Read PFS:file and Model 4 in last months issue, for methods to use PFS:file with LS-DOS 6.3

==========

Q: I need a copy of the NewDos80 system to operate some very special equipment, or a copy of the NewDos80 manual. Most of all I need to know what the commands are to boot in NewDos
H. M. - Vernon, IL

A: Since the publisher Apparat, is out of business, I am sure that some of the NewDos users out there could be of help with the information you need. (If you have NEWDOS and you can help, drop us a line and we will put you in touch with the person in need).

==========

Q: We are looking for NEWDOS80/2.0 owners and users.
G. M. Chicago, IL

A: Any experts in NEWDOS out there who are willing to contribute support, articles, etc. Let us know. It looks like we could use a monthly NEWDOS column.

==========

Q: I have a problem. I managed to get SuperSCRIPSIT to work properly with a Xerox Memorywriter 610c11 used as the printer. (Its input is serial.) To do so, I used the DW2/CTL driver and filtered regarding CRLF. But Scripsit Pro (used with its version of DW2/CTL) leads to a condition of no space between words when in proportional mode. I thought of getting a scripsit Pro driver from Alps, but before I got SuperSCRIPSIT to work with the 610cl, I bought a driver from ALPS, but it never worked, and they never answered my request for help. I studied elementary assembly language, and disassembled several drivers from different sources, but I understand on fragments of what I then see. Any ideas?

The utility that is needed in two versions (Epson FX and Tandy) is a short menu-driven Mod 4/CMD program to facilitate invoking printer set-up options. A friend wrote one for the Mod III and old Epson MX-80, and it is really handy. I did one in BASIC for the Epson FX-80, but that necessitates having on line, and invoking, BASIC. -R. D. Rolla, MO

A: Have you checked with Powersoft in Dallas (214) 484-2976, they seem to be very experienced in oddball print drivers for TRS-80. If anyone else has a print driver or suggestion let us hear from you.

==========

Q: Will a commercial program such as Print Commander allow me to use my DMP-200 printer with an MS-DOS machine? The boys at the Tandy Computer Store say it can't be done (a good reason NOT to buy a Tandy 1000; I like my DMP-200). -D A Athens, GA

A: The answer to that one on the DMP-200 should be available from Tandy Hardware Support Group in Fort Worth, 817-338-2394, keep dialing till you break through, sometimes we have punched the phone non-stop for 15 minutes, but we got someone on the line, and they were always most helpful.

==========

Q: My main interest would be in seeing articles that can help me convert my Model I assembly language software to the Model III mode of the Model 4, and then to the native Model 4 mode. I could also use help in converting the Peek and Poke statements in Basic programs.

A: Unfortunately our program files do not go back to the Model I, but we are sure that some reader will be able to send us a conversion program from I to III that we can pass along to you.

==========

Q: I am an avid user of the TRS Scripsit Version 6.00.01, 1983 I could disable the date prompt during startup but I don't want to. Need a patch to extend the date beyond 12/31/87 any help?

A: All kinds of help here, see our last issue Vol 1. No.1 and David Goben's column in this issue.

==========

Q: "You are not the only one who bought a disk full of gremlins! The thing that 'bugs' me the most is <Down Arrow!> <V> and <Down Arrow> <P>. After block action <delete> both of those functions start moving up the page instead. To cure this, I have to perform <CTRL> <Q> and then type <R> from the menu. This is only a temporary fix. Also when performing block action delete, I have to check closely that the Last Character of the deleted block has not been left on the screen. And like you, I have had to struggle with 'frozen' paragraphs, especially after hitting an unknown combination of keys. One other thing that happens; sometimes I suddenly hear the disk drives running and find a 'command' to go to the help screens! I am about to buy another word processor even though I cannot afford it." -S. L. South Haven, MI

A: You have our deepest sympathy, but we recommend that you go back to SuperSCRIPSIT version 1.1.0 without using the latest Tandy updated version 1.2.0 which was supposed to fix the bugs has the frozen paragraph that can't be removed short of burning the disk, or using it as a frisbee over Lake Michigan. Ignore the call for help notice it pops up all the time. Right now our mail is equally split with 1/3 for LeScript, 1/3 for Allwrite, and 1/3 for SuperSCRIPSIT, and a few for Scripsit Pro, but for Scripsit Pro we are talking $249.95 and requiring 128K. The 128K chips can be purchased now for under $30. If your requirements are not very fancy, such as just letter writing, try just plain Scripsit Cat. 26-1563, check your discount distributors for super close out prices on it.

==========

Q: I would like to operate the Home Acct. (Mod III) in Mod IV mode, I've written many letters with no response? -A. T. Lompoc CA

A: We assume you are referring to the Home Accountant by Continental Software which is not supported by Tandy, as it was an express order item in their catalog. Have you tried using the @CONVert utility in your TRSDOS 6.x. which is used to convert data files from TRSDOS 1.3 to TRSDOS 6.x, i.e. @CONV:1 :0 Converts all files, visible, invisible and system files from the source disk on drive one to the destination disk on drive zero. The source disk is a DOS 1.3 disk, and the destination disk is a DOS 6.x, as each file is displayed, you are asked to be sure you want to convert it. (QUERY). Note that the Repair utility command is used to massage information on a specified drive into a form usable by TRSDOS 6.x, and reworks disks with data generated by other Radio Shack operating systems. Including Model 1 Versions 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.3A. TRSDOS 1.2 and 1.3 must not be REPAIRed. They must be CONVerted using the CONV utility.

If the convert utility has not worked you may have to try to find a utility that will convert your Model III programs to the Model 4 mode. Check with EMSI, PO Box 471, Chester, New Jersey 07930 201-879-5982 for a program conversion utility from Model III to Model 4.

==========

REPRINTED FROM MOD 4 by JACK

SYSTEM FILES (/SYS)
TRSDOS 6 for the Model 4 is made up of a number of individual modules that are shuffled in and out of memory on an "as needed" basis rather than having all of the operating system in memory at all times. This has the effect of preserving a large amount of (RAM) memory for application programs. The implications pertain not only to volatile memory, but also to floppy (or hard) disk storage. By PURGEing and REMOVEing unneeded modules from your disks, you can streamline the disk to handle only those functions needed and free up more of the disk for potential applications.

All of these files have the /SYS extension and are normally invisible on the directory listing.

Note that it is possible to put needed SYSTEM files in high memory (using SYSRES) so that additional disk storage can be opened up for other applications.

SYS0/SYS (SYSzero/SYS) - contains the so called "resident" portion of the operating system and is needed for dynamically allocating disk space for files. It can be purged from a disk if it is not used for booting.

SYS1/SYS - contains the interpreter for all commands, and the routines needed to use @CMDI, @CMDR, @FEXT, @FSPEC, AND @PARAM. This module must reside on any SYSTEM disk.

SYS2/SYS - used for opening and initializing disk files and devices. contains the routines needed to use @CKDRV, @GTDCB, and @RENAM. This module must reside on any SYSTEM disk.

SYS3/SYS - needed to close files and devices, as well as handle @FNAM. You need this on any system disk.

SYS4/SYS - contains the error messages. If not on the disk, all errors will be indicated using the message "SYS ERROR", which may or not be acceptable.

SYS5/SYS - needed only if you will be using the regular DEBUG command.

SYS6/SYS - needed for use with all "Library A" commands. It can be removed, but this will leave a rather anemic version of the operating system.

SYS7/SYS - needed for use with all "Library B" commands. The most often used library commands are in "A", so this module can many times be deleted.

SYS8/SYS - needed for all "Library C" commands. Usually you can delete this one.

SYS9/SYS - needed only if you will be using the extended DEBUG command. If SYS5/SYS is removed, you should also purge this one.

SYS10/SYS - needed for removing files. You should keep this one.

SYS11/SYS - needed only for Job Control Languarge operations. If SYS6/SYS (Library A) is removed, you should also purge this one.

SYS12/SYS - needed for @DODIR, @GTMOD, AND @RAMDIR, and should remain.

SYS13/SYS - is currently not used by TRSDOS. You could remove it since it will release one additional directory slot.

The above text is an excerpt from MOD 4 by Jack, the TRSDOS® operating manual written in plain english, which we reviewed in our last edition.

Reprints of the entire book in a 8-1/2 by 11 format in a three ring binder is now available for $17.95 plus $2.00 for shipping and handling. A smaller format version may be reprinted at some future date as a soft bound paper back. (Wyoming Residents add 4% sales tax, Canada add $4.00)

==========

PRINTER COMMAND PROGRAM - MOD III - C.ITOH 8510 PRINTER

- by David Frecker

How to set up a printer without having to type in the printer commands.

The program was used with AIDS Plus, in itself a rather good little Data Base system for the Model III, which explains line 170 in the program.

```
10 ' PRINTSET/BAS - SET UP PRINTER TYPE FOR WORD PROCESSING - C.ITOH PROWRITER
20 ES$=CHR$(27) : WI$=CHR$(14) : WO$=CHR$(15) : EI$=CHR$(33) : EO$=CHR$(34) : CLS
30 INPUT "DO YOU WANT THE PRINTING EMPHASIZED"; IN$
32 IF IN$="Y" OR IN$="y" THEN LPRINT ES$ EI$; : M$="EMPHASIZED " :CLS       ELSE
IF IN$="N" OR IN$="n" THEN LPRINT ES$ EO$; : M$="" : CLS
  ELSE CLS : GOTO 30
40 PRINT "SELECT NUMBER FOR TYPE OF PRINTING DESIRED:"
50 PRINT "1 - CONDENSED 15"
60 PRINT "2 - ELITE 12"
70 PRINT "3 - PICA 10"
80 PRINT "4 - PROPORTIONAL"
90 PRINT "5 - WIDE CONDENSED"
100 PRINT "6 - WIDE ELITE"
110 PRINT "7 - WIDE PICA"
120 PRINT "8 - WIDE PROPORTIONAL"
130 INPUT A : IF A<0 OR A>8 THEN GOTO 40
140 ON A GOSUB 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800
150 CLS : PRINT W$; " "; M$; "PRINT MODE IS SET"
160 ' FOR I = 1 TO 1000 : NEXT I
170 CMD "I","AIDS"
180 END
1100 ' SET CONDENSED MODE
1110 LPRINT WO$; ES$ "Q"; : W$="CONDENSED"
1120 RETURN
1200 ' SET ELITE MODE
1210 LPRINT WO$; ES$ "E"; : W$="ELITE"
1220 RETURN
1300 ' SET PICA MODE
1310 LPRINT WO$; ES$ "N"; : W$="PICA"
1320 RETURN
1400 ' SET PROPORTIONAL MODE
1410 LPRINT WO$; ES$ "P"; : W$="PROPORTIONAL"
1420 RETURN
1500 ' SET WIDE CONDENSED MODE
1510 LPRINT WI$; ES$ "Q"; : W$="WIDE CONDENSED"
1520 RETURN
1600 ' SET WIDE ELITE MODE
1610 LPRINT WI$; ES$ "E"; : W$="WIDE ELITE"
1620 RETURN
1700 ' SET WIDE PICA MODE
1710 LPRINT WI$; ES$ "N"; : W$="WIDE PICA"
1720 RETURN
1800 ' SET WIDE PROPORTIONAL MODE
1810 LPRINT WI$; ES$ "P"; : W$="WIDE PROPORTIONAL"
1820 RETURN
2000 END
```

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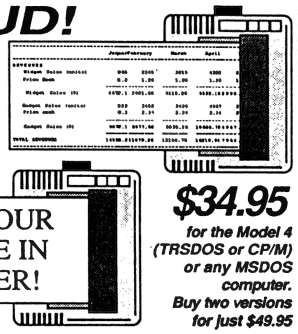

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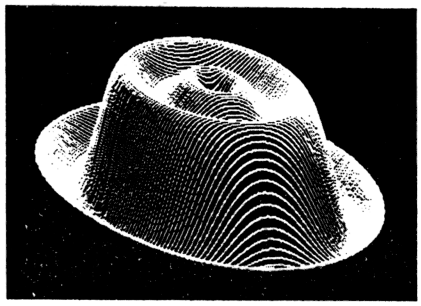
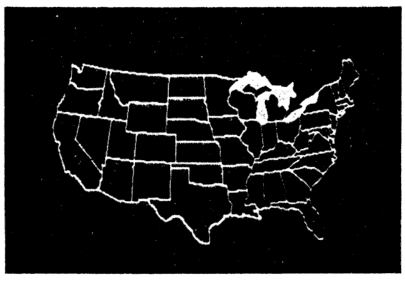
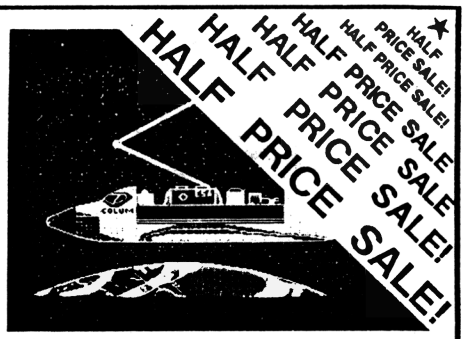


Superior Hardware. The Grafyx Solution provides 153,600 pixel elements which are arranged in a 640 × 240 or on the Model III a 512 × 192 matrix. Hundreds of new business, personal, engineering, and educational applications are now possible. The hi-res display can be shown on top of the standard display containing text, special characters, and block graphics. This simplifies program debugging, text labeling, and upgrading current programs to use graphics. The Grafyx Solution fits completely within any tape or disk based Model 4, 4D, 4P, or III. Installation is easy with the plug-in, clip-on Grafyx Solution board.

Superior Basic. Over 20 commands are added to the Basic language. These commands will set, clear or complement points, lines, boxes, circles, ellipses, or arcs. The hi-res screen can be printed on any of 30 popular printers or saved or loaded to disk without leaving Basic. Areas may be filled in with any of 256 patterns. Sections of the screen may be saved and then put back using any of five logical functions. Labels can be printed in any direction. The viewing area can be changed. The entire screen can be complemented or cleared. Graphics Basic provides dot densities of 640 × 240, 320 × 240, 160 × 240, and 160 × 120, all of which can be used in the same display.





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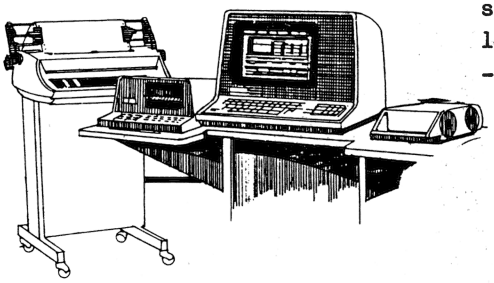

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